

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A surveillance system adapted for use on a mobile platform and adapted for communicating real time video of a desired portion of said mobile platform to a remotely located monitoring station, comprising:

at least one video camera positioned on said mobile platform to view a desired area of said mobile platform and for generating output signals representing a video image of said desired area;

a radio frequency communications subsystem carried onboard said mobile platform for communicating said output signals to said remotely located monitoring system; and

a recorder subsystem located on board the mobile platform for recording said output signals for viewing later in time.

2. The surveillance system of Claim 1, wherein a plurality of video cameras are included for monitoring a plurality of areas within said mobile platform.

3. The surveillance system of Claim 2, further comprising a distribution subsystem for transmitting said output signals from said video camera to said radio frequency communications subsystem.

4. The surveillance system of Claim 1, wherein said radio frequency communications subsystem operates to receive camera control commands from said remotely located monitoring station; and

wherein said system further comprises a video control unit for receiving said camera control commands and using said camera control commands to control operation of said video camera.

5. The surveillance system of Claim 1, wherein said system comprises a video control unit which acts as an interface between a plurality of said cameras.

6. The surveillance system of Claim 1, wherein said system comprises a video control unit which provides said video cameras with electrical current and electrical current surge protection.

7. The surveillance system of Claim 1, wherein said system comprises a computer server capable of storing said signals from said video camera using a suitable electronic storage device.

8. The surveillance system of Claim 1, wherein said video camera comprises a color camera capable of producing an image which meets or exceeds the standards set by the National Television Standards Committee.

9. The surveillance system of Claim 1, wherein said control commands transmitted to said video camera instruct said camera to perform at least one of the functions: pan, rotate, and zoom.

10. The surveillance system of Claim 1, wherein said video images are stored in a recorder subsystem responsive to said output signals.

11. A method for transmitting a radio frequency signal representing video images of a predetermined area of a mobile platform, the method comprising:

using at least one video camera positioned to view said predetermined area;

using a radio frequency communications system responsive to output signals from said video camera to generate radio frequency signals representing video images viewed by said video camera; and

using a base station for receiving said radio frequency signals from said radio frequency subsystem and for transmitting radio frequency signals representing control commands to said video camera to control operation of said video camera.